

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Interim Interagency Watershed Advisory Team

Meeting Summary

The Interim Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IIWAT) met on May 19, 1998, to discuss the following:

- April 23, 1998, and April 30, 1998, Stakeholder Meetings;
- Watershed Management Work Group Meetings and Tasks; and
- Goals and Objectives of the Watershed Management Program.

A list of those present is attached.

Recap of Stakeholder Meetings

Judy Heath gave an overview of the reception received at the April 23, 1998, and April 30, 1998, Regional Watershed Stakeholder Meetings (Stakeholder Meetings). Both meetings were well organized and had a large attendance. Locally elected officials, Assemblyman Woods, staff from Congressman Herger's office and Senator Johannessen's office gave comments at the Stakeholder Meeting in Redding. A large portion of the Stakeholder Meetings were set aside to receive input from the stakeholders. The re-occurring themes of the comments included concerns regarding a top-down Watershed Program (Program) structure; the map illustrating CALFED's geographic scope; off-stream storage; area of origin water rights. At the Sacramento meeting, concerns were also raised regarding the sustainability of the Program and the importance of effective outreach to existing watershed programs. It was suggested that efforts should be made to better include the lower Central Valley area in the Program. A summary of the stakeholder comments were distributed to the Team members.

Work Group Meetings and Tasks

It was announced at the Stakeholder Meetings that the Program's Strategy document would be refined. The Stakeholder Meeting attendees were invited to participate in a Work Group to refine the Watershed Management Strategy and to help develop an implementation framework. An organizational chart of the Program was presented to the stakeholders showing a preliminary list of proposed tasks that would be performed by the Work Group.

Judy Kelly (CALFED Bay-Delta Program) mentioned that the IIWAT should be careful as to how the products received from stakeholders are used due to Federal Advisory Commission Act (FACA) issues. Stakeholders should not come too close to guiding the Program Strategy. In addition, Ms. Kelly expressed concern of the potential number of participants in the Work Group, which is approximately 90 people. She pointed out that the IIWAT should be clear as to how the Work Group should organize and exactly what the group will be expected to do. Lastly,

Ms. Kelly recommended that the Work Group/stakeholders be clearly informed of the Program's relationship with that of the overall CALFED Bay-Delta Program, especially with regard to adaptive management and monitoring.

(Update: After the meeting, Judy spoke with Marion Moe, legal advisor to CALFED. As long as the Work Group is a fact finding group, and technical in scope, but not advisory, FACA does not apply. Therefore, from here on in, the Work Group will be referred to as the Watershed Management Technical Work Group to avoid confusion with FACA issues.)

It was also recommended by the IIWAT to provide the Work Group with a framework - or action plan - for revising the Program Strategy. From this framework, comments could then be solicited. Otherwise, if the Work Group starts with a blank slate, the same comments as those heard at the Stakeholder Meetings will be reiterated. Judy indicated that we have to be careful in going too far in developing a framework without stakeholder involvement. The Program has been criticized in the past by watershed groups because the draft Strategy was created before stakeholder meetings. However, it was suggested and agreed upon that the framework would be developed to provide a framework to help guide stakeholders. Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to add to or modify the framework at Work Group meetings.

Concerns were raised by the IIWAT with regard to the timeframe of the planned June 10 and 11, 1998 Work Group Meetings. The consensus of the IIWAT was that the details of the Work Group Meetings are not clearly defined enough to hold the meetings so soon. The tasks as proposed on the organization chart are too vague at this point and the relationship of the tasks to the overall CALFED Bay-Delta Program has not been adequately addressed. It was agreed that the Work Group Meetings should be postponed until late June or early July. This timeframe would allow the IIWAT to develop a framework for the Work Group and organize the tasks, but still leave adequate time to meet work product deadlines of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (deadline: August 28, 1998).

Before the Work Group Meetings are conducted, it was suggested that a summary of the comments received at the Stakeholder Meetings be distributed to the attendees of the Stakeholder Meetings with a cover letter. The letter would ask the stakeholders if they believe that CALFED has captured everything stated at the Stakeholder Meetings. If they believe something is missing, they would be asked to provide an explanation. This effort would provide confirmation of the comments received and further include the stakeholders in the Program process. Meanwhile, the IIWAT can further formulate a plan of action for the summer. When a plan is drafted it was suggested to distribute this document to the stakeholders as well.

It was also suggested that instead of two Work Group Meetings, perhaps four meetings may be more appropriate. This would cover a larger geographic scope and allow for smaller Work Groups. However, the Program does not have the resources to conduct too many meetings.

(Update: On May 26, 1998 Judy drafted a cover letter announcing cancellation of the June 10 and 11, 1998 Work Group meetings and attached a copy of the stakeholder comments to be reviewed by Lester Snow. It is planned that the mailing will go out by May 29, 1998.)

Goals and Objectives of the Watershed Management Program

It was suggested that it would be beneficial to "step back" and answer some fundamental questions about the Program. After those questions are answered and clearly defined the Program can proceed forward. To answer some of the fundamental questions regarding the Program, the following strategy was recommended by the IIWAT:

1. Define Goals and Objectives

- Define the functions of a watershed - identify those functions that are included in the Program.
- Describe the process - describe how a watershed plan affects watershed functions.
- Define the evaluation process - exemplify a quantifiable cost/benefit analysis

2. Create a Coordination Framework

- Identify agencies and watershed groups (functions related to CALFED goals and objectives)
- Develop partnerships with non-CALFED agencies, local governments, local groups, etc.

From the above strategy, the following goals and objectives of the Program were proposed by the IIWAT:

GOAL:

Provide technical assistance and funding to existing or potential watershed programs for helping to solve the problems of the Bay-Delta system.

(NOTE: Watershed project support needs to be included in the goal to be consistent with Watershed Management Strategy and other Common Program approaches.)

OBJECTIVES:

Provide criteria/framework to evaluate watersheds

- Provide description of watershed functions
- Identify common issues involved, i.e., fuel management
- Identify the Program's needs of watershed groups

Facilitate and improve coordination among government agencies and local watershed groups

- Coordinate funding among government agencies
- Provide technical assistance

(NOTE: Under this category we need to add an objective to develop a coordination framework whereby mechanisms to integrate watershed efforts among agencies, organizations and local watershed programs will occur - it is intended to leverage and support watershed projects linked to the CALFED goals and objectives.)

Develop watershed monitoring assessment and protocol to fit into CMARP

- Facilitate monitoring efforts that are consistent with CMARP's protocols
- Define performance measures so that adaptive management process can occur

Support education and outreach

- Provide baseline support to organize watershed programs
- Support education regarding resource issues
- Provide training on monitoring, grant writing, and assessment

(NOTE: We need to talk about objectives for assurances, finances and adaptive management - principles addressed by all common programs. Also, we need to discuss plans to develop an Implementation Framework.)